

**CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL AUTRY,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**FNU MOOSE, et al.**

**Defendants.**

**THIS MATTER** is before the Court on an initial review of Plaintiff's pro se complaint that was filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. (Doc. No. 1).

## I. BACKGROUND

Plaintiff is a prisoner of the State of North Carolina following his conviction for common law robbery (principal) in Wake County and his projected release date is December 22, 2014. In his pro se complaint, Plaintiff alleges that he was sexually assaulted on February 25, 2014, at Alexander Correctional Institution while he was in full restraints in Defendant Sergeant Murry's office and Plaintiff states that he was held down by Defendants Walker and Johnson. Plaintiff contends that he complained about the alleged assault and inquired why Murry and Walker were still allowed to be around him after this incident. In his claim for relief, Plaintiff is seeking, among other things, monetary damages from an unspecified source for mental and emotional pain.

## II. STANDARD OF REVIEW

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(A)(a), “The court shall review . . . a complaint in a civil action in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity.” Following this initial review the “court shall identify cognizable claims or dismiss the complaint, or any portion of the complaint, if the complaint—(1) is frivolous,

malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.” Id. § 1915A(b)(1). In conducting this review, the Court must determine whether the complaint raises an indisputably meritless legal theory or is founded upon clearly baseless factual contentions, such as fantastic or delusional scenarios. Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 327-28 (1989).

A pro se complaint must be construed liberally. Haines v. Kerner, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972). However, the liberal construction requirement will not permit a district court to ignore a clear failure to allege facts in the complaint which set forth a claim that is cognizable under Federal law. Weller v. Dep’t of Soc. Servs., 901 F.2d 387, 391 (4th Cir. 1990).

### **III. DISCUSSION**

Plaintiff is a prisoner of the State of North Carolina and as such his pro se § 1983 complaint must satisfy to the mandatory requirements of the Prisoner Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”) which provides that a prisoner must exhaust his administrative remedies prior to the commencement of a civil action under § 1983. The PLRA provides, in pertinent part that “[n]o action shall be brought with respect to prison conditions under section 1983 of this title, or any other Federal law, by a prisoner confined in any jail, prison, or other correctional facility until such administrative remedies as are available are exhausted.” 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a).

In Porter v. Nussle, 534 U.S. 516 (2002), the Supreme Court held that the PLRA’s exhaustion requirement applies to all inmate suits about prison life and the Court noted that “exhaustion in cases covered by § 1997e(a) is now mandatory.” Id. at 524 (citing Booth v. Churner, 532 U.S. 731, 739 (2001)). The Porter Court went on to stress that the exhaustion requirement must be met before commencement of the suit. Id. Whether an inmate has properly exhausted his administrative remedies is a matter to be determined by referencing the law of the state where the prisoner is housed and where the allegations supporting the complaint arose. See Jones v. Bock, 549 U.S. 199, 218 (2007) (“The level of detail necessary in a grievance to comply

with the grievance procedures will vary from system to system and claim to claim, but it is the prison's requirements, and not the PLRA, that define the boundaries of proper exhaustion.”).

The Fourth Circuit has determined that the PLRA does not require that an inmate allege or demonstrate that he has exhausted his administrative remedies. Anderson v. XYZ Corr. Health Servs., 407 F.3d 674 (4th Cir. 2005). Indeed, failure to exhaust administrative remedies is an affirmative defense, but the Court is not prohibited from sua sponte examining the issue of exhaustion in reviewing the complaint. As the Fourth Circuit observed:

[A]n inmate's failure to exhaust administrative remedies is an affirmative defense to be pleaded and proven by the defendant. That exhaustion is an affirmative defense, however, does not preclude the district court from dismissing a complaint where the failure to exhaust is apparent from the face of the complaint, nor does it preclude the district court from inquiring on its own motion into whether the inmate exhausted all administrative remedies.

Anderson, 407 F.3d at 683.

In North Carolina, State prisoners must complete a three-step administrative remedy procedure in order to exhaust their administrative remedies. See N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 148-118.1 to 148-118.9 (Article 11A: Corrections Administrative Remedy Procedure); Moore v. Bennette, 517 F.3d 717, 721 (4th Cir. 2008). In Plaintiff's complaint, he states that he filed a grievance one to two weeks after the alleged assault occurred however he admits that he did not appeal the adverse decision regarding his grievance to the highest possible level in the administrative remedy procedure. (Doc. No. 1 at 2). After he filed his complaint, the Clerk entered an order which required Plaintiff to file a sworn statement that demonstrated that he had exhausted his administrative remedies or to submit copies of documents which showed that he had exhausted his remedies. (Id. at 3). Plaintiff then filed a document which tends to show that he participated in the first step of a grievance but the grievance was denied because he had yet to complete Step Two with respect to his initial grievance. (Doc. No. 4).

Based on the foregoing review of the record, the Court finds that Plaintiff has plainly failed to exhaust his administrative remedies with regard to the alleged assault prior to filing his complaint and it seems that he has still not done so. Accordingly, this civil action will be dismissed without prejudice to his ability to refile the complaint and submit proof that he has fully exhausted his state administrative remedies.

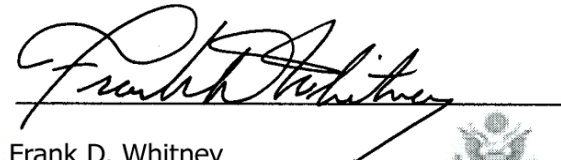
#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

**IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED** that Plaintiff's complaint is **DISMISSED** without prejudice. (Doc. No. 1).

The Clerk of Court is directed to close this civil case.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Signed: June 20, 2014

  
Frank D. Whitney  
Chief United States District Judge

